

June/July
2003

Volume 40
Number 3



Non-Profit US Postage Paid
Permit No. 14794
San Francisco, CA

New Bernal Journal

515 CORTLAND AVE - SAN FRANCISCO - CALIFORNIA - 94110

SERVING THE BERNAL HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD OF SAN FRANCISCO SINCE 1964

¡Sección Especial! NBJ en Español: Páginas 9-12

Bernal Heights Community Congress Convenes June 14th

by Joseph Smooke

Members of the Bernal Heights Neighborhood will celebrate 25 years of community service and advocacy, determine the direction of the BHNC for the coming year, and elect new Board member at the Annual Community Congress on Saturday, June 14th. The Community Congress will start at 9 am with coffee and pan dulce, with a general session, review of the past year, introductions of resolutions and bylaw changes and election of BHNC Board Members. Then, Congress will split up into three breakout sessions covering issues of importance for the coming year. This year's breakout sessions will cover the following issues:

- The ongoing campaign to keep Home Depot out of the old Goodmans/Whole Earth site and review the SF Planning Department's proposal to rezone Bayshore into a Big Box Alley.
- The South of Cesar Chavez Mission St. Community Planning Process. The BHNC is sponsoring a community planning process to guide housing and economic development along the Mission corridor between Cesar Chavez and Randall St., with a special focus on short term activities to improve public safety, parking, neighborhood identity and beautification.
- The current City budget shortfall and how it will impact services to Bernal youth and seniors

The Congress will reconvene for a general session for a review of the breakout groups and an opportunity to meet with City and community leaders and recommend solutions. Some of the invited guests include Supervisors Tom Ammiano, Chris Daly (Budget Committee Chair), SFPD Captain Kevin Dillon of the Ingleside Station, Derek Lam of the Mayor's Office on Aging, and members of the SF Planning Commission.

The Community Congress is your way to let the Center know which directions to take in the coming year. Please come be a part of your community's history in the making, but remember, although everyone is welcome to participate, only members in good standing of the BHNC may vote for resolutions and Board members. ■

Home Depot Bombshell at Planning Commission Meeting

By Ron Morgan

The date for the public hearing on the Home Depot Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) before the Planning Commission has been postponed for a third time, and is now scheduled to be heard on July 10th. The latest rescheduling came as a result of surprisingly strong testimony at the May 1st Planning Commission meeting, from Bayview/Hunters Point residents against Home Depot's lack of communication and enforceable guarantees of community benefits. This forceful testimony surprised everyone, as Bayview has been assumed to be supportive of the giant retail megastore development.

Young Community Developers, a Bayview/Hunters Point community-based organization that trains unskilled youth and adults in the construction trades, led the call for the extended postponement for 60 days. "These young people behind me represent the best in the nation," declared Duane Jones, Executive Director of YCD, rounding out the compelling testimony of under-employed clients. He further declared that there was no way that Home Depot could avoid serious negotiations with YCD, since it provided 98% of job training in District 10, and that Home Depot had not held detailed talks with YCD in the year leading up to the MOU negotiated with the Bayview/Hunters Point PAC.

Stan Warren, of the SF Building Trades Council, testified in support of YCD and to the mixed signals from Home Depot's corporate offices, which had indicated a willingness to sign a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) with Bay Area trade unions, and regional Home

Depot executives, who told Warren that Home Depot never signed such agreements. Mike Abate, real estate manager for Home Depot, later testified that Home Depot would never agree to a PLA.

Home Depot attorney, Anna Shimko, remarked that "delay is not our friend here," and hinted that the jobs that Bayview residents were negotiating for might "go away" if the project were delayed further.

Planning Commissioner Kevin Hughes put forth the motion to delay the public hearing on the DEIR until July 10th. The motion passed 6-1, the sole no vote registered by Commissioner Reverend Boyd, who said, "Much needs to be done... [to insure community benefits from Home Depot]. I don't know whether 60 days, 90 days, 120 days, will do any good at all. It may be that at the end of that, we are no closer than we are right now." Reverend Boyd added, "We don't really know how diligent the project sponsors are."

Home Depot Breakout Group at Community Congress 2003

No Depot Committee Chair Barbara Kyle will lead a breakout group on the Home Depot DEIR at this year's Community Congress. The breakout group will include preparation for public testimony before the Planning Commission on July 10th, an overview of the history of the Home Depot project up to date, and a briefing on the SF Planning Department's proposed zoning changes that could turn Bayshore Boulevard into a Big Box Alley. ■

Community Begins Planning the Future of Mission St.

More to Come at BHNC Community Congress

By Joseph Smooke

So far, nearly 75 community members have participated in planning meetings with the Planning Department, County Transportation Authority, BART and MUNI as we get ready to create a community vision for Mission St between Chavez and Randall. By the time you read this article, even more people will have participated in the May 22 workshop with the Department of Parking and Traffic and the Department of Public Works.

At these planning meetings, we don't just listen to presentations. The meetings always start with those of us from the community telling the presenters our experiences and ideas relevant to the topic for that meeting. This interaction then expands into an informed dialog as the meetings progress. People also have been signing up for action committees to put their ideas in motion to take on issues raised during these meetings.

The next chapter in our writing of the future of Mission St will be scribed at the Community Congress on June 14. At the Congress, we'll have a display of

Continued on Page 3

The New Bernal Journal

**515 Cortland Ave.
San Francisco, CA
94110
(415) 206-2140 ext.108
NBJ@BHNC.ORG
fax:(415) 648-0793**

**EDITOR/DESIGNER
PAUL WELCH**

**EDITORIAL COMMITTEE
RON MORGAN
MAURICIO VELA**

**SPANISH TRANSLATION
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*It is dedicated to providing the
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the center mission:*

*To preserve and enhance the eth-
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able housing; and by building
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capacity to achieve these goals.
We commit to being a provider
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organizing neighborhood
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Journal or the Bernal Heights
Neighborhood Center*

*Printed by Howard Quinn Co.
298 Alabama Street
San Francisco, CA
Submissions for the June/July
issue of the NBJ are due by
7/15/03. Please make all com-
puter disk submissions in PC for-
mat, or email them to:
nbj@bhnc.org*



A Message from the Executive Director of the BHNC

Dear Neighbor:

It is with great pleasure that we reintroduce the Spanish section of the New Bernal Journal. Many years ago we discontinued the Spanish speaking section due to the enormous effort to sustain the section. However, as we work with the Latino merchants and Spanish speaking residents, it became more evident for a need for a Spanish section. We start this effort with the highlight of Rudy Cortez, one of our Bernal Latino community leaders. We hope you enjoy the section.

City budget cuts are threatening our community. Proposed cuts in the range of 10% - 20% could lead to a reduction of services and quality of life for our most at-risk families in Bernal and the Excelsior. Please come to Congress to help us continue this fight to maintain critical services or call the Mayor's Office at (415) 554-6600, and the Board of Supervisors at (415) 554-5184 and asked them to spare essential human services especially for our youth and seniors.

Our membership drive is in its third month. We currently stand at 460 members with our goal of 1000 strong in 2003. If you haven't joined please do so immediately and if you have, I thank you for your support.

Our annual Community Congress is scheduled for Saturday, June 14th from 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM. Please come and get involved with our community campaigns. If you are interested in running for BHNC's board of directors you must be a current member and file a board application by Friday, June 6th to be included on the ballot. Please come by the office and pick one up or call me and I'll mail you one.

Don't forget this year is our 25th Anniversary of providing services and developing the community. Please mark your calendars for Thursday, October 16, and Sunday, October 19, 2003. We could use your help with the planning and production of our two day celebration.

Finally, congratulations to Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval and his wife on the birth of their daughter. Parenting is a wonderful experience and I wish them the best in raising their beautiful daughter.

Don't forget to renew or join the BHNC.

Any concerns or questions please call me at (415) 206-2140 ext. 121.

Sincerely,

Mauricio E. Vela
BHNC Executive Director

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I read Joe Smooke's fine article titled Then and Now in your April/May issue, I am pleased with the leadership role that the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center has taken in neighborhood planning and issues like the old Goodman Lumber Company site. Mauricio Vela has become an outstanding leader for our neighborhood, a real community organizer. I think we are lucky to have him.

There are some points of historical information over which I would like to differ with Mr. Smooke. Greta Van Praag certainly was active in the hilltop issue. One of the things she did was insist that the telephone company follow through with its promise to plant trees around the then newly built microwave tower. She remained active in the neighborhood for a number of years.

The real credit for the transfer of the hilltop parcel goes to the old Bernal Heights Association. I was president at the time and involved with the committee that spent nearly every day on the telephone for months first with the Department of Public Works, then the Board of Supervisors, and finally the Recreation and Parks Department. We celebrated with a small outdoor beer bust in the east quarry of the hill. We even had a rock band.

I had the good fortune to lead a meeting at the old Ribeltad Vorden Bar on Precita Avenue during which the name of the new park was chosen.

Later I personally insisted that Parks and Recreation and AT&T use steel gates at the western road closures because of the damage done to the hill by off road vehicles and illegal dumping. The dumping and motorcycle use of the hill was particularly bad at the east end.

The well worn trails and bare earth patches all over the hill were made by motorcycles. Nothing will grow on these patches short of a major landscaping effort.

One the north side of the hill overlooking Waltham Street people would back their trucks up to the edge and dump everything from household waste to construction debris down into the yards of property owners. Concrete blocks of various sizes were put in place by the DPW, which deterred the dumpers. Since their installation many have been moved or taken away.

I don't know how many readers are aware that the Department of Public Works and Recreation and Parks Department are planning a redo of the hilltop gates and fencing. There were a series of recent public meetings held by those departments at the Bernal Recreation Center. I urged both departments to plan for the two problems I have described here. I hope they heard me.

Yours-Truly,

Jerry F. Schimmel
Prentiss Street

In this issue...

Page 4-5: Membership Thank You List
Page 6: Letter from Supervisor Tom Ammiano
Page 7: Bernal Happenings
Page 8: BHNC Senior Services Page

NBJ En Espanol

Página 9: El Congreso Annual de Bernal Heights y Gran Sopresa: Aplazada la Audiencia Pública Para Home Depot
Página 10: Nuevos Desarrollos Previstos en el Antiguo Local de Taco Bell
Página 11: Perfil Local: Rudy Cortes

Page 13: Local Profile: Rudy Cortes
Page 14: From Rome to Bernal: A Tradition of Food
Page 15: Victory for Day Labor Program
Page 17: Obituaries
Page 18: Area Teens Take to the Sea
Page 19: Classifieds

The BHNC Needs You! Join Today!!

Like what you see in the New Bernal Journal? Want to join with your neighbors in taking care of this place we love? Do you want to be a part of putting us over our goal of 1,000 Strong in 2003?

Your chance is here! The Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center's annual membership drive is underway. You may have seen our banners at Precita Park and on Cortland Avenue. Maybe you've noticed our brochures in all your favorite stores. And maybe you've got one of our letters in your mailbox. We are working to raise our membership from 810 to 1,000 members, an increase of over 20%. (See our re-print of the 2002 Membership on Pages 4-5) At press time we are at 480 which means we still need 520 more to meet our goal of 1,000 by June 30th. Come join your neighbors as a member of the BHNC "Member-led, Community supported for Twenty-five years." Your membership serves two functions:

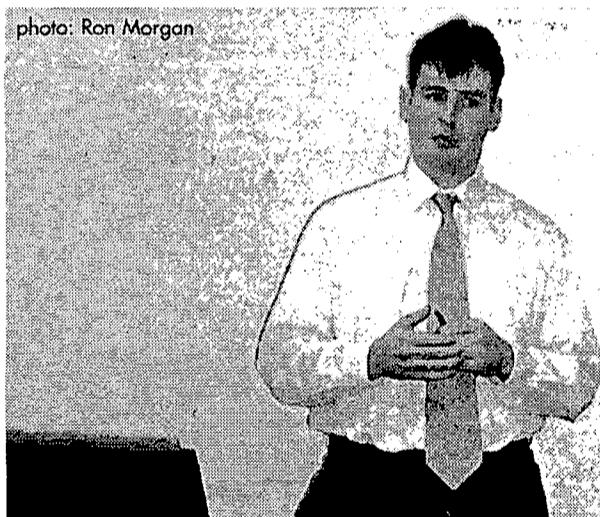
- You, along with many others, provide the funding that keeps the BHNC going. Your membership keeps our programs strong. Without you we could not provide services for Affordable Housing, Youth, Seniors, or Community Organizing. Your membership dollars go where they are needed!

Mission St. Planning

cont'd from Page 1

what we've learned so far, some charts and pictures to describe who works and lives on Mission St, and a timeline for what's coming up. You can join an action committee, or if you're already on one, report to the community what you've been doing, and what you'll be working on.

photo: Ron Morgan



Chatham Hennessey of the Dept. of Parking and Traffic addresses neighbors at the May 22 Mission St. Planning meeting.

Then, in August, the real fun will start. BHNC staff along with Lisa Gelfand, Planner and Architect, will host a series of workshops to model the future of Mission Street. Where do you want more street trees, bus shelters, safer cross walks, a certain type of business to fill a vacant store front, a facade improved, affordable housing, higher density, open space, better bus service, etc. The more people who participate, the better the plan will be, because all of you who use Mission St have good ideas about how to make it better to meet your needs and the needs of the community.

We would like to see all of you at the BHNC Congress on June 14 who have participated in the first set of meetings, and those of you who haven't been able to come, and you who are curious to find out more! Get involved and stay involved to create a better future for all of us who use Mission St.! ■

► Our membership numbers show our strength. Whether we're talking to city officials, federal representatives or funders from around the country about our work, when they see who we represent, they know we are part of a community that backs what we do. And your membership gives you voting privileges* at our BHNC Annual Congress on Saturday, June 14th (see the article on Page 1)! If you were a member last year, you have probably seen a letter from Mauricio, our Executive Director, asking you to renew, and you might have even gotten a reminder call from us as well...We Need You! Come Back! Please, before you read another word, stand up, find the letter, take out the envelope, and write your check. Drop it in the mail or come on by our building on Cortland Avenue today so we can count you in in 2003. If necessary for your convenience we'll come visit and pick up the envelope. If you have never been a member, now is the time. Take a moment to fill out the tear-sheet on this page and mail it in along with your check. Either way, your dollars and your actions will go a long way to keeping this a special place to live, work and be for all people.

Voting members must live or work in Bernal Heights, reside with an active client relative, or reside in one of the BHNC Housing Developments. ■



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I have remembered the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center in my will.

Other Ways You Can Help!

- Make a United Way Donor Choice gift. Just fill in BHNC's code #928683 on the United Way pledge form.
- For federal workers, the Combined Federal Campaign is the program through which you designate your United Way gift.
- Multiply your gift with a matching contribution from your employer.
- Donate used items to our thrift store, Gifts on the Hill, 513 Cortland Ave., San Francisco, CA 94110
- Donate resale items to Community Thrift Store, Valencia between 17th and 18th Streets, and designate BHNC (acct# 243) as the beneficiary.
- When you shop at Cole Hardware, Mission and 29th Street, tell them you want BHNC (acct# 515) to get 10% from your purchase.
- Consider including the BHNC in your estate planning. Call (415) 206-2140, ex. 161 to discuss how.



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Doreen Hautea	Visitacion Lavigne	Donald & Alice Navarrete	Laurie Salen	Lisa Tsang
Martha Hawthorne & William Floss	Natasha Lavine & Mark Aronica	Julian Navarro Comet & Molly Navarro	Elsa Salinas	Mary Tudor
Amy He	Peter Leaf Kleinert	Hazel & Richard Ngim	Margarette Alyce & Paige	Mary Twomey
Angelique He	James Leavitt	Julie Ngo	Sammons	Jonathan Tyson
Blake He	Lucille & Richard Lee	Bao Nguyen	Donna San Juan	Marsha Underhill
Aragon Healy & Jennifa Gosling	Gundo Lee	Consejo Niego	Dora Sandoval	Telesforo Unite
Karl & Michele Heisler	Robert Leeds	Chava Nieto & Thomas Tomberlin	Encarnacion Sandoval	John Valdez
Mike Hennessey	Mary & Marion Lewis	Bill Nieto	Gopal & Sudha Sarin	Flora Valenti
Ann Henry	Marcia Lieberman	Pat Norman	Joan Sasso	Mamerta Valonza
Roberto Hernandez	Jian-Ya Lin	Adrienne Noto	Oliver Sauneuf	Richard Van Kooy & Phoebe
Starling Hernandez	Liz Linale	Carmen Nunez	Michael Scharfenstein	McAfee Van Kooy
Alphonzo Hernandez	Edwin & Stella Lindo	Kathy O'Grady	Jane Schisqal & Perry Vermilyea	Joost Van Son
Maria Hernandez	John Link & Sophia Green	Ann O'Reilly & Julia Lopez	Annette Schubert	Wayne & Janet Veatch
Theodore Herzberg	Shu Wen Liu	Giselle Olmedo	Royce Schumacher	Celia Vega
Manfred Hettenkofer	Rivka Livni	David Onek	Sandra Schwartz	Maria & Carlos Vela
Jim Hewitt	Gary Lomax	Francisca Orais	Starr Seegmiller	Judy Viertel & Eric Carroll
Roselee Higdon	Leslie Lombre	Lina Orey	Kenneth Segovia	Rachel Vigil
Julia Hing	Sixta Lopez	Benni Ortiz	Clare Senchyna	Natalia Vigil
Susan Hoffman & Brian Murphy	Anthony Lopez	Channella Ortiz	Jean Sered	Jesse Villegas
John Holland & Anne Marie Grace	Marcello Lopez	Antoinette Osorno	Roy Seto & Maureen Persico	Eli Wadley
Sandra Holloway	Amy Love & Joe Andres	Claudia Overton	Elise Shapiro	Marybeth & Kevin Wallace
Berniece Holly	Jack Lowe	Mildred Owens	Brian Sharber & George Puffett	Lisa Wayne
James Holm & Debe Rodriguez-Holm	Jeff & Judy Lucas	Eulalia Pagao	Alison Shepard	Martha Wayner
Theresa & Jacquie Horton	Josephine Luhman	Frank Palma	Allison Shore & Chris Weeks	Ay Lih We
Sharon Hosaka	Jerome Lukas	Brian Parish	Nancy Shore & Angela Dillon	James Weber & Bryan Makishi
Stephen & Saloni Howard Sarin	Bill Luque	Corazon & Noel Pascua	Richard Siaw	Wayne Weeks
Palmore Hoyt & Deborah Byrne	Mark Lynch	David Paul & Daisy Gin	Carol & James Siddall	Phillip Weichel & Robert Dobrich
Alyonik Hrushow	Robin Mackey & Danny McGinley	Tim Paulson & Joyce Fujiwara	Leslie Simon	Linda Weiner & David Price
Tina Huang	Mark Mackler	Leslie Payton	Helen Sjoberg	Bernard Weiner & Heidi Linsmayer
Rabia Hunter	Victoria Mahoric	Robert Pender	Asia Smith	Paul Welch
Dawn Huston	Kristi Makarawicz & Howard Hirsch	Emma Perez	Neil Smith	Nicole Wendel
Helen & Renee Hutchins	Proteone & Antoinette Malveaux	Salvador Perez	Jermaine Snelgro	Nancy Werner & Jim Emerman
Gloria Hutter	Demetria Mamaug	Kristen Perry	Pelagia Socias	Li Xian Wesley
Edward Hutter	Walter Mann & Rebecca Jennings	Elizabeth M Pesch	Jovanka Solorzano	Peter Westermayer
Nhan Huynh	Carmen Manrique	Alexandre Petrakis & William White	Emy Sonico	David Willenbrink & Holly Nelson
Marlowe Hyer & Joseph D'Antonio	Luis Manual	Steven Petrow	Roland & Betty Soriano	Georgia Willette
Sumi Imamoto	Trinidad Marcos	Mildred Phillips & Leslie Reif	William Sorro & Giuliana Milanese	Lonie Lee Williams
David & Nicole Inouye	Holly Marcum	Kathleen Phillips & Elizabeth Dunn	Hermitanio Sotelo	James Williams
Krystal Jackett	Gary Marcus & Amy Beinart	Roland & Barbara Pitschel	Lawrence Souza	George Williams
Alyson Jacks & Wendy Miller	Eugenie Marek	Kristen Powell & Christian Moore	Rose Spiller	Elizabeth & John Williams
Jamica Jackson	Theresa Markle & Ken Garrett	Marcie Prohofsky	Scott Stark & Kathleen Tyner	Gerald Williams
Helen Jacques	Michael Marrelli	Gabriel Proo	Kevin Stein & Helen Bruno	Marcelina Wilson & Alfred
Marlene Jara	Martin & Sophie Marrero	Anita Provost	Peter Stein	Kielwasser
Carol Jauch	Donald Marsik	G. Quijano	Paul Stein & Stephanie Weissman	Ruth Wilson
Lucille Jazzuz	Molly Martin	Dennis Quinn	Joseph & Rebecca Steinberger	Shaundra & Frank Witke
Clemencia & Rigoberto Jiminez	Jo Ann Martin	Maria Quintana	Diane Stevens	Hannah & Martin Wolf
Azucena Jimenez	Bertha Martinez	Vicente Rabara	Catalina Stirling & Davor Mrkoci	Larwrence Wonderling
Andrea Johnson & Mindy Ross	Alex Martinez & Michael Baxter	Linda Ramey	Elaine Stoller	Bryan Wong
Mary Johnson	Maria & Manuel Martinez	Lupita Ramos	Jill Stone & Kevin Bushman	Alexander Wong
Ryan Johnson	Wanoo Martinez	Mark Rand & Yeslica Weerasekera	Justine L. Strebler	Lu Wu
Melissa Jolivette	Alice Matas	Hazel Ransom	Brandon Suen	James & Sandra Wulff
Daniel Jones & Colleen Mathews	David Matchett & Carol Snow	Loumena Rappa	Maya Sussman & Nora Casey	Mariana Wundram
Shirley Jones	Alan & Melinda Mazzetti	Robert Redlinger & Michelle Hecht	Karen Sutherlin	Jill & George Wynns
Rodney Jones	Nora McCauley	John Regan	Kirstin Svendsen	Gilda & Earl Yeadaker, Jr.
Joanne Jordan & Janet Robertson	Jeanita McCoy	Michael Reid	Jamie Ta	Marci Yellin
Jennifer Joseph	Rose McDevitt	Jodi Reid & Bruce Livingston	Thomas Ta	Mary & Claudio Young
Gladys Jurgens	Terry McDonald	Mildred Revera	Florentina Tabora	Paula Young
Hope Kamimoto	Samuel & Gloria McKay	Dalmacio Reyes	Josephine & Eduardo Tambo-Ong	Deena Zacharin & Ralph Carney
Judie Kanui	Mike McLoone & Pati Boyle	Maria & Max Reyes	Lianie Tan	Diane Zacher
Rick Karp	Georgina Medina	Krissia Reyes	Vernon & Myrna Tarriel	Joanne Zaldivar
David Karp	Mark & Amanda Mellin	John & Evelyn Rhodes	Aida Tenorio	Juanita Zetar
Marti Kashuba & Beth Gorman	Anastacia Mendoza	Gary Richmond & B. Nils Morgenroth	Salvador Tesorero	Karen Zhao
David Kaskowitz & Susan Kahn	Ceida Mesa	Julia Riddell	Susan Thackrey & Steve Anker	
Marc Katz	Paul Miller	Ernest & Mara Rivera		
Dorothy Keeble	Melinda Mills	Bud Robbins		
Tara Keller & Jordan Kurland	Richard Modolo	Veronica Robertson		
Sherri Kellman	Alison Moed Paolercio & Michael Paolercio	Diana Robledo		
Florence Kelly	Tim Molinare & Mary Marchetti	Celia Rodriguez		
Matthew Kennedy	Solomona Momosea	James Rodriguez & Erika Roman Rodriguez		
Kathy & Keary Kensinger	Maria Moncada & Alejandro Cerdá	Millie Rodriguez		
Adam Kinsey & Rachel Kaplan	Barbara Montano	Danill Rodriguez		
Thorne Kinsey	Maria Monterrosa	Adian Rodriguez		
Max Kirkeberg		Michael Roepel & Dara Westling		
Susan Kitazawa		Carlos Romero		
Esther Kleinsmith		Jorge Romero-Lozano		
		Jiabao Rong		

This is a reprint of our 2002 Members with added names to correct the previous omissions. (Donation Levels are determined based on gifts from Jan 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002.)

Esta es una reimpresión de los nombres de los miembros del BHNC en el año 2002, con unos nombres anadidos para corregir las omisiones pasadas. (Las contribuciones de estas personas fueron hechas entre el primero de enero del 2002 y el 31 de diciembre del 2002).

A Rainy Day Reserve for San Francisco

by District 9 Supervisor Tom Ammiano

The current budget crisis is trying for residents and City officials alike. The Charter, for obvious reasons, mandates a balanced budget. Cutting back health and public safety programs that people rely on is the most difficult part of city governance for everyone involved. Anything we can do that could ease these cutbacks is worth pursuing.

Basic economics dictate that local government revenues rise and fall with the economy. While San Francisco's revenue base is more diverse than most cities, a look at the last twenty years shows both sharp increases in total revenues (more than 13% in FY 1996-97) and steep declines (in both the early 1990s and in the current crisis). In an effort to reduce the disruption of spending increases followed by governmental cutbacks resulting from these cycles, I have proposed a November ballot question to create a San Francisco Rainy Day Reserve.

Most states (45 of 50) have established rainy day funds to stabilize government spending. California is unfortunately not among them. Very few major cities have voter-approved rainy day policies.

The way the funds work is simple. In years when government revenues increase, deposits are made. Withdrawals are strictly limited to periods of fiscal crisis.

Earlier this year, I authored a resolution urging the Controller to review City reserve practices and make recommendations for establishing a Rainy Day reserve for the City. After three months of work with the Controller's Office, the Mayor's Budget Office, and the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD), I introduced the San Francisco Rainy Day Reserve Charter Amendment - a measure that will



establish a robust rainy day reserve for the City and public schools.

The Rainy Day Charter Amendment would require that 50 percent of "extraordinary growth" in City revenue be deposited in the city's Rainy Day Reserve. What constitutes "extraordinary growth"? Well, since the City's average revenue growth over the past twenty years has been 4.9 percent, extraordinary growth is defined as more than 5 percent.

For example, if in some future year city revenues were to increase by 10 percent over the prior year, half of that amount -- or the first 5 percent of growth -- would be treated as normal revenue to be spent as the Mayor and Board of Supervisors saw fit. 50% of the remaining revenue growth would be deposited in the Rainy Day Reserve. An additional 25% of "extraordinary growth" would be budgeted for non-recurring items such as capital spending. The Reserve would be capped at 10% of prior year revenues (a healthy reserve).

The Controller has recommended an initial deposit of \$56 million from the City's outdated Cash Reserve (not employed by most jurisdictions) in the Rainy Day Reserve.

The Reserve could then be used whenever projected City revenues fell below that of the prior year. Up to 50 percent of the Reserve could be spent in any one year.

The measure would allow up to an additional 25 percent of the Reserve to be spent on the schools if inflation-adjusted per pupil spending declines. Many people don't realize it, but the SFUSD budget is separate from that of city government. But with public education under duress in so many ways, City government ought to be able to give schools a helping hand in times of greatest need.

Models of the measure's

hypothetical performance over the last twenty years show a strong safety net for critical public services. In addition, the measure will limit the type of unsustainable, inflationary growth in City spending that has tracked sharp revenue increases, forcing better planning for City expenditures. The Reserve will not change - but will smooth out - the amount that City government spends over time.

We cannot repeal the business cycle, but we can pursue better budget planning. We have an obligation to be fiscally responsible. If six Supervisors will support putting this question on the ballot this November and voters enact it, the Rainy Day Reserve will ease the pain of future economic downturns.

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Bernal Happenings

Former BHNC Director Returns for Book Talk on Race

Helen Helfer, former Executive Director of the Neighborhood Center, will be here on July 15th at 7pm, to discuss her newly published book, Footprints on the Land: American Stories About Race. Footprints brings together the first-person accounts of 52 contemporary Americans who speak about their experiences with race and racism in the United States. Several of these unique stories are by people associated with the Neighborhood Center: Mauricio Vela, Joseph Smooke, Giuliana Milanese, Bill, Giulio, and Joaquin Sorro. Other San Franciscans include Sharon Li (Joseph's wife), the Kaho family (John, Karen, Shiloh, and Gabrielle), and Baraka Sele.

Each story has its own compelling message. Together they form a bridge between those who struggle with the issue of race and racism every day and those who, knowingly or not, remain sheltered by the cloak of white privilege. Given as an offering to the process of understanding and reconciliation, these stories and those who tell them leave their indelible footprints on the most profound issue that continues to divide us as a nation.

"I look forward very much to being with the staff, friends, and neighbors at the Neighborhood Center and sharing some of these extraordinary stories with you," Helen recently wrote from her home on Cape Cod. Please join us in welcoming her back to Bernal! ■

Mission YMCA Celebrates 50 Years

by Andrew Scott

This is a very special year for the Mission YMCA as we celebrate the 50th year at our current location and 120th in the Greater Mission, serving the Southeast communities of San Francisco, particularly our most local neighborhoods - Bernal Heights,

Excelsior, and Glen Park. What makes it even more special is that this coincides with the 150th anniversary of the YMCA of San Francisco, the oldest for-profit or non-profit organization west of the Mississippi! The Mission Y (that blue building!) is a true multi-service agency with programs that serve the whole family from pre-school to senior services with the goal of building "Strong Kids, Strong Families, and Strong Communities". We currently serve over 1,000 children and youth and 100 seniors each day, in 15 community locations - a bona fide "Y without walls." Our main Bernal Heights services are the after school programs at Paul Revere School.

What are we proudest of?

"Our longevity.

"Our ability to serve all in need, regardless of ability to pay because of the generosity of local people giving back to the Y as a way of saying thanks.

"Our community partnerships with agencies like the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center.

"Our multi-culturalism as part of a world-wide human service organization that always feels like the Y from Mexico to South Africa to England or any of the other 120 countries where the Y makes a difference in people's lives every day.

"The very special spirit you feel when you walk into our building.

For more information - Come and see us or call us at 586-6900 and don't forget DAY CAMP at PAUL REVERE - still time to sign up! ■

New Businesses on Cortland

by Paul Welch

Summer is here, and several new businesses have sprung up on Cortland. Some are selling familiar goods and some are bringing new wares to the area.

Flowers and Books Return!

The North Corner of Cortland and

Maintenance

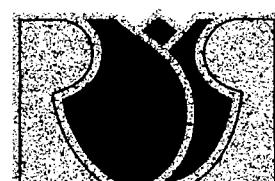
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Bennington had been ideal for idly browsing through the finer things in life; books at Bernal Books, and flowers at Blumengarten. When those two finally packed up after many years, ambler down Cortland had to make due without those aesthetic essentials.

Now those essentials have returned in the form of Briar Rose Flower Atelier and Red Hill Books.

Briar Rose is picking up where Blumengarten left off. Owner Christine Nakatani has created an enticing space, and filled it with exotic and aromatic flowers and selected objects d'art. I picked up two giant lilies and their scent filled my apartment for days.

Red Hill Books is also taking the reigns from Bernal Hill Books as Bernal's new source for books. Kate Kanaley, the owner, is also the owner of Phoenix and Dog-Eared Books on Mission, and she has brought the same great mix of new and used books at reasonable prices to Red Hill.

Incidentally, the name of the store comes from an old moniker for Bernal Heights from the 30's and 40's. It refers to the fact that our neighborhood was a hotbed of Union and Communist Party organizing at that time.

Appropriately enough they opened on May 1st--May Day.

The store has an eclectic stock, and will pay or trade for used books. I found some wonderful translations of Chinese classics printed in the 1920's for a very reasonable price. Melissa Richmond, who is running the shop with Kate, said that the store has gotten a great reception and is very happy to be

in the neighborhood.

Topaz and Tandoori

Two new jewels have come to the east end of Cortland's shopping corridor.

Jolino Jewelers brings a classy selection of jewelry and a large selection of designer and more affordable watches to the neighborhood. They also have intriguing and unique glass art pieces, many with a marine theme. This new store is a welcome addition to people looking to surprise their significant others and those looking to put a little more shine in their bling-bling alike. Cortland's culinary horizons keep expanding, and the new Little Nepal is the most far-flung cuisine yet. With a blend of Indian style dishes like tandoori and curries and Himalayan specialties like momo (a savory dumpling filled with delicious stuffings) the menu has something for everyone. This restaurant is Nepalese-born Ramesh Lama's (the owner of next door Pizza Express) baby; he has been saving and planning for years to make it happen. He teamed up with another Nepalese friend and cook Prem Tamang, whose first cooking gig was making meals for climbers in the Himalayas.

The ambience is warm and the décor has a pleasant burnished quality to it. The staff is very friendly, and my momo were succulent and my shrimp tandoori was sizzling and juicy. The prices are reasonable too. So there are four more great reasons to get out and shop on Cortland, and there are more to come! ■

Local Artist: Anita Ellis

by Paul Welch

Anita Ellis possesses an incisive wit (honed, no doubt by her many years of trading ripostes with the clientele at Wild Side West in her capacity as bartender extraordinaire) and an unique aesthetic, both of which manifest themselves in her artwork. She works in a variety of media, including acrylic, graphite, and watercolor and installation. Her acrylics encapsulate her style; using a range of bold colors, with a mixture of fairy tale images, insects, and dreamlike landscapes predominating. Her style is influenced by folk art in its two dimensional rendering of people, but she uses these deceptively simple characterizations as a foil for the complexity of her subject matter. One look at her paintings reveals their honesty, and it's easy to tell that Anita paints from the heart.



"Tied up and Liking it" by Anita Ellis

Her works have been on display at the Attic on 24th St., and will be moving to Progressive Grounds. The opening reception is June 1st, and Anita will be there selling merchandise from 12 to 3 PM. Not only will original art be up for sale, but prints, pre-framed prints, stickers, bookmarks, and other exquisite merchandise will be made available. Stop by and check out her great stuff!

BHNC Senior Services Page

Volunteers Come Together to Assist Senior with Spring Cleaning

Fifteen hands-on San Francisco Volunteers, one Bernal volunteer and BHNC Volunteer Coordinator Suzanne Collins came to the north east slope of Bernal Heights on Saturday May, 10th as a part of Hands-on San Francisco Day, where over 10,000 volunteers across San Francisco did community projects. The volunteers weeded the backyard and cleaned out the entire garage of one of our Bernal seniors, Miriam Murphy, a task that she was unable to do on her own. The volunteers came at 9:30 a.m. and by 12:30 had completed their tasks by filling an extra large dumpster with garden debris and assorted garage items. Their hard work and dedication on an unusually warm day was much appreciated.

Miriam spent her childhood in this house, which



was built before the San Francisco fire/earthquake in 1906. She has volunteered at the Neighborhood Center since its early beginnings, 25 years ago. Miriam was delighted saying "You guys did such a

great job, it just feels so good walking up to my front door." As a continued community project, the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center will be planting a front yard garden along with some additional help on her house. If you are interested in volunteering for this project or would like to donate plants, seeds, soil or manure etc, please contact Suzanne Collins at 206-2140 ex.132. ■

"Senior Day Out" with the Horn Group

By Roland Soriano



The Horn Group, a public relations company along with BHNC Senior Services staff took 10 of our case management clients out to lunch at Sinbad's Restaurant at Pier 2. It was a beautiful sunny day and the staff of the Horn Group and the Seniors were able to exchange stories and good conversation. One senior celebrated her 83rd birthday with us and we were able to sing her a rousing round of "Happy Birthday". Another senior said "It was just such special treat to get out and have lunch by the water." We thank the Horn Group for taking time out of their day to give back to our community. ■

Volunteer Appreciation Brunch

By Roland Soriano

Sunday, May 4, 2003, was the annual Volunteer Appreciation Brunch at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center. This year we had a Hawaiian Luau theme, and most that attended dressed up in their best island attire. About 60 volunteers attended this year's event, representing different facets of volunteering. There were volunteers from the Active seniors Program, the Neighborhood Elders support Team, the volunteer distributors of the New Bernal Journal, and Fiesta on the Hill volunteers.

Our volunteers are the backbone of the BHNC, and this event was to show our thanks for all the wonderful work they have done. Without them, the BHNC could not effectively provide services to our



Photo: Roland Soriano

clients and to the Bernal Heights neighborhood.

Also, many thanks to Bernal staff members Justine L-Sterbler, Hilda Uribe, Karen Garrison, Ron Morgan, Suzanne Collins, Julia Korsunsky, Jamie Chen, Sumi Imamoto, and Roland Soriano, for making all the arrangements, but again, it's the volunteers who made this event a success. ■

And Don't Forget the Upcoming...

Bernal Heights Hillwide Garage Sale Saturday, August 16, 2003 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Yes, the 10th Annual Hillwide Garage Sale is about to happen ...

The Hillwide Garage Sale directly benefits the programs of the Senior Services Department of the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center. Come to the BHNC on August 18th to find the best bargains and to pick up a master map and listing of all additional registered garage sale locations. The Hillwide Garage Sale will be advertised through flyers, event classified ads, plus press releases to local print, radio and television media. Last year, there were over 100 garage sale sites throughout Bernal Heights as well as a massive sale at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center itself.

How do I participate?

- Clean out your closet and have a Garage Sale by registering your site and returning this form to the BHNC by Monday, August 11th 2003 with a check for \$20.00 to:
BHNC, Hillwide Garage Sale, 515 Cortland Ave. San Francisco, CA 94110.
- Donate usable items to the BHNC Garage Sale. Please drop off items at the Neighborhood Center after Thursday, August 14th. All donated items for the garage sale are tax deductible.
- Come shop and enjoy the bargains and this unique community event.
For any questions, please call at 415-206-2140 or email at kgarrison@bhnc.org

Bernal Heights Hillwide Garage Sale
Saturday, August 16th, 2003

First Name _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

Nearest Cross Street _____ Next Cross Street: _____

Phone Number: _____

Enclosed is \$20, I wish to participate in the Hillwide Garage Sale

In addition, I'd like to donate the following proceeds of my garage sale to support senior services

25% 50%
 100% Other

Please indicate if you will also have a Garage Sale on Sunday, Aug 17th

YES NO

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO
BERNAL HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER,
515 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94110

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Journalism Schedule for Fall 2003

Jour 19: Contemporary News Media M/W/F 9-10am ARTX 185
Introduction to modern mass communication, with an emphasis on development of news media, analysis of the credibility of the media, and its effect on daily life.

Jour 21: News Writing and Reporting M/W/F 10-11am ARTX 262
W 6:30-9:30pm 1800 Market St./#306

Techniques of newspaper reporting, developing and writing a news story, training in information gathering and interviewing news sources.

Jour 22: Feature Writing M 6:30-9:45pm 1220 Noe St./#304
Writing for magazines and newspapers with an emphasis on profiles and human interest stories. Experience in interview and in-depth research techniques. Training in how to freelance a story.

Jour 24: Newspaper Laboratory M/W/F 12-1pm BNGL 214
Advanced newspaper laboratory course focused on the publication of the college paper, the Guardsman. Also, lab hours TBA.

Jour 29: Magazine Editing & Production T 7-9pm BNGL 214
Advanced laboratory focused on the production of the campus magazine etc.. Course includes a brief history of the magazine industry and the various components that comprise a magazine. Also, lab hours TBA

Jour 36: Advanced Reporting R 6:30-9:30pm 1800 Market St./#306
Advanced concepts of information gathering and writing leading to training in in-depth investigative reporting.

Jour 37: Intro to Photojournalism R 7-10pm BNGL 214
Emphasis on news and feature photography for newspapers and magazines. Training in how to use Photoshop and negative scanners. Some basic training in how to use digital cameras for newspaper work.

For more information call
Department Chair Juan Gonzales at (415) 239-3446
www.ccsf.edu/departments/journalism

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New Bernal Journal En Español!

Junio/Julio 2003

La Comunidad se Seune el Sábado Día 14 de Junio para el Congreso Anual de Bernal Heights

por Joseph Smooke
traducido cerca Anna Ulbrich

El Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center invita a sus miembros a celebrar 25 años de servicio a la comunidad y de lucha para la justicia social en el Congreso Anual, este sábado día 14 de junio.

Durante el Congreso, la comunidad determinará las acciones que tomará la organización este año. A las 9 a.m. se servirán café y pan dulce y después habrá una sesión general que incluirá un repaso del año pasado, nuevas resoluciones, cambios en los estatutos y la elección de nuevos miembros del Consejo del BHNC. Despues, el Congreso se dividirá en tres grupos. Cada grupo tendrá como misión ocuparse de un asunto de importancia para la comunidad y formular un plan de acción. Este año, los asuntos que se van a tratar son los siguientes:

► La campaña para impedir la construcción de un Home Depot en el antiguo local de Goodmans/Whole Earth y el repaso de la propuesta hecha por el Departamento de Planificación de cambiar el uso del terreno del Boulevard Bayshore en una área de locales y grandes cárdenas.

► El proceso de planificación de la calle Mission. El BHNC está patrocinando un proceso de planificación para guiar los futuros desarrollos económicos y de vivienda en la Calle Mission entre César Chavez y Randall, con un enfoque especial en actividades que mejorarán la seguridad pública, el parqueo, la apariencia de la calle y la identidad del barrio.

► La actual crisis en el presupuesto de la Ciudad y cómo ésta va a afectar los servicios para los jóvenes y las personas ancianas de Bernal Heights.

Después, el Congreso se reunirá de nuevo en una sesión general para repasar el trabajo que hizo cada grupo y tener la oportunidad de conocer a oficiales que trabajan para la Ciudad y líderes de la comunidad, así como recomendar soluciones a los problemas discutidos. Algunos de los invitados incluirán a los Supervisores Tom Ammiano y Chris Daly (presidente del Comité sobre el Presupuesto), Capitán Kevin Dillon del Distrito Policial de Ingleside, Derek Lam de la Oficina del Alcalde sobre la Vejez, y miembros de la Comisión de Planificación de San Francisco.

El Congreso es la oportunidad que la comunidad tiene para informar al Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center sobre la dirección que se debe tomar el año que viene. Por favor vengan a formar parte de la historia de su comunidad, pero recuerden que aunque cualquier persona es la bienvenida, sólo los miembros del BHNC pueden votar sobre nueva resoluciones y elegir a miembros del Consejo.

¡Gran Sopresa: Aplazada la Audiencia Pública Para Home Depot!

por Ron Morgan
traducido cerca Anna Ulbrich

Informe Sobre Impacto Ambiental ante Comisión de Planificación Postergado hasta el Día 10 de Julio por Solicitud de la Comunidad de Bayview

La fecha de la audiencia pública que tendrá lugar ante el Departamento de Planificación y donde se oirá el Informe Sobre el Impacto Ambiental del desarrollo propuesto por Home Depot en el Boulevard Bayshore ha sido aplazado por tercera vez, por lo cual la audiencia ahora tendrá lugar el día 10 de julio. Este cambio de horario fue el resultado de un testimonio muy fuerte por parte de los miembros de la comunidad de Bayview/Hunters Point en una reunión

con la Comisión de planificación el primero de mayo. Los residentes se quejaron de la falta de comunicación por parte de Home Depot y de la falta de garantías que el proyecto beneficiaría a la comunidad.

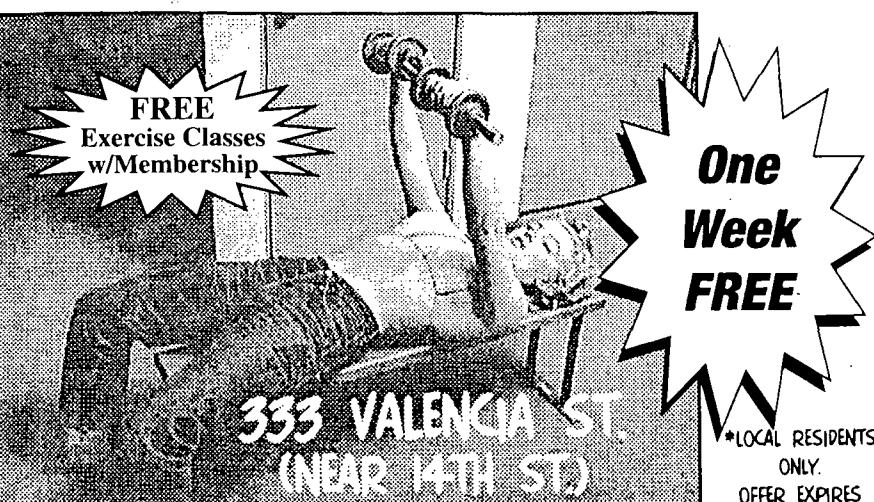
"Young Community Developers" (YCD), una organización comunitaria del Bayview/Hunters Point que da capacitaciones sobre diferentes oficios relacionados con la construcción a jóvenes y adultos, lideró la revindicación pidiendo que se aplazara la audiencia, de sesenta días. "Los jóvenes que me rodean ahora mismo son lo mejor que tiene esta nación", dijo Duane Jones, Director Ejecutivo de YCD al final de un impactante testimonio por parte de sus clientes subempleados. También declaró que Home Depot no podría evitar tener negociaciones serias con YCD, quien dio 98% de las capacitaciones sobre el empleo

en el Distrito 10, y que Home Depot había firmado un acuerdo con el Comité Sobre la Planificación del Área (PAC, por sus siglas en inglés) de la comunidad de Bayview/Hunters Point.

Stan Warren, del SF Building Trades Council, apoyó a YCD en su testimonio y criticó a Home Depot por la ambigüedad de su posición, dado que por un lado su oficina nacional parecía estar a favor de firmar un Acuerdo Sobre la Labor del Proyecto (PLA), y que por otro lado los ejecutivos de la oficina regional de Home Depot declararon nunca haber firmado tales acuerdos. Mike Abate, gerente inmobiliario de Home Depot, hizo más tarde un testimonio diciendo que Home Depot nunca aceptaría tal acuerdo.

Anna Shimko, una abogada para Home Depot, comentó que "la postergación no es amigo nuestro," sugiriendo que los trabajos continuaron en la página 12

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Nuevos Desarrollos Previstos en el Antiguo Local de Taco Bell

por Joseph Smooke
traducido cerca Anna Ulbrich

El día 5 de mayo, John Sullivan, el encargado de procesar el desarrollo del local del antiguo Taco Bell en la Mission con Valencia, y Drake Gardner, el arquitecto para el desarrollo del local, hicieron una presentación al Comité sobre Viviendas del Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center (BHNC) acerca de sus planes para los futuros desarrollos del local. La propuesta es para construir 4,800 pies cuadrados de espacio comercial, 21 espacios de estacionamiento en la planta baja y 20 condominios en las segundas y tercera plantas. Su propuesta incluye espacio para un cuidado de niños y para pequeños vendedores en la planta comercial.

La preocupación más grande del Comité sobre Viviendas del BHNC siempre es asegurarse que el encargado del desarrollo prometa proveer apartamentos de precio bajo para personas de bajos ingresos. Según el presente Código de Planificación de la Ciudad, las propiedades como ésta deben incluir un 12% de apartamentos de bajo precio, accesibles para personas que ganan 100% del ingreso mediano o menos. El Sr. Sullivan dijó que había propuesto al Departamento de Planificación construir 21 apartamentos con 3 de ellos de bajo precio para cumplir con el requisito de 12%. Pero como la ley local del uso del terreno para el sitio sólo permite la construcción de 20 residencias, el Departamento de Planificación mandó que sólo se construyeran 20 apartamentos o bien que se aplicaría para obtener un permiso previo con condición que permitiría obtener la aprobación de un apartamento más. Los encargados del desarrollo optaron no aplicar para dicho permiso, por lo cual el número de apartamentos no pasará de 20. También redujeron de 3 a 2 el número de apartamentos de bajo precio, lo cual equivale a sólo 10% de los apartamentos en vez del 12% exigido por ley. Para cumplir con la intención de la ley, y para satisfacer las necesidades de la comunidad, el encargado del desarrollo del local tiene que construir 3 apartamentos de bajo precio para futuros propietarios que ganan el ingreso mediano o menos.

Según nuevas cifras del Departamento de Viviendas y Desarrollo Urbano (HUD), el ingreso mediano en San Francisco ha aumentado drásticamente. El ingreso mediano para una sola persona ahora es de \$79,200 y para una familia de 4 es de \$113,100. Entonces, el descuento para los apartamentos de bajo precio no será tan extremo que causará privación para el encargado del desarrollo. Sin embargo, el precio rebajado de los apartamentos ayudará a los que no pueden comprar propiedad en el mercado de viviendas de hoy a comprar una casa.

Este encargado de desarrollo y este arquitecto son los mismos que construyeron los condominios en la Mission con la Calle 29. El Sr. Sullivan y el Sr. Gardner dijeron al Comité Sobre Viviendas del BHNC que el espacio comercial en la Mission/29th sería para pequeños negocios. Afirman que no llegarían Starbucks o grandes cadenas como Starbucks. Para los que están curiosos, según el Sr. Sullivan, la Oficina de Correos planea moverse de nuevo para el nuevo edificio.

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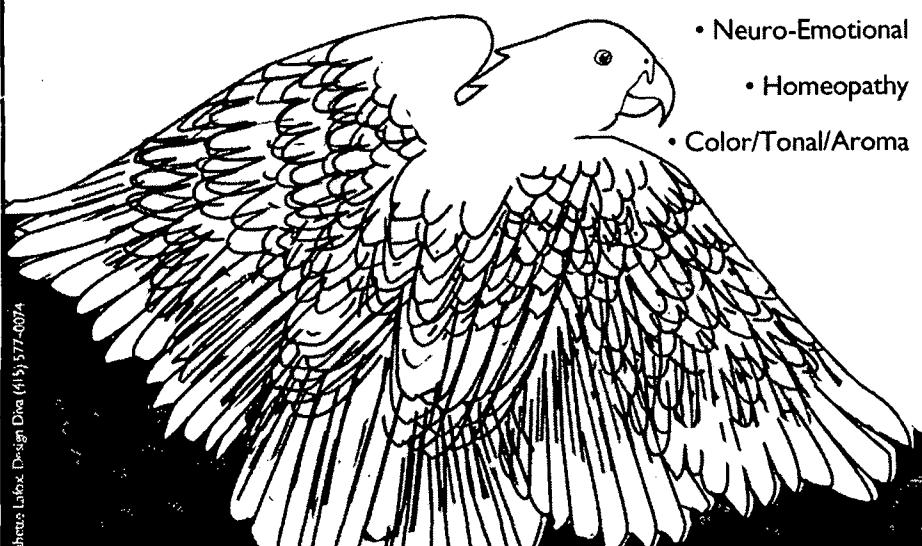
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Perfil Local: Rudy Cortes

Rudy Cortes es un hombre de negocios bien conocido en la comunidad Latina de la Calle Mission. Muchos lo ven como "alguién que sabe", una persona que puede ayudar cuando se necesita orientación. Rudy realmente es un gran recurso para la comunidad: puede aconsejar a personas que se encuentran en trámites de inmigración y a veces hasta a ayudado a algunos a encontrar casa. Inmigró a los Estados Unidos desde Nicaragua durante la guerra, y entonces entiende bien las dificultades a las que se enfrentan los que dejaron a la madre patria para encontrar una vida mejor. El aconseja fuertemente a nuestros vecinos de la Calle Mission, comerciantes y residentes, que se unan y que realicen el poder que tiene una comunidad fuerte y organizada.

--Anna Ulbrich

traducido cerca Anna Ulbrich

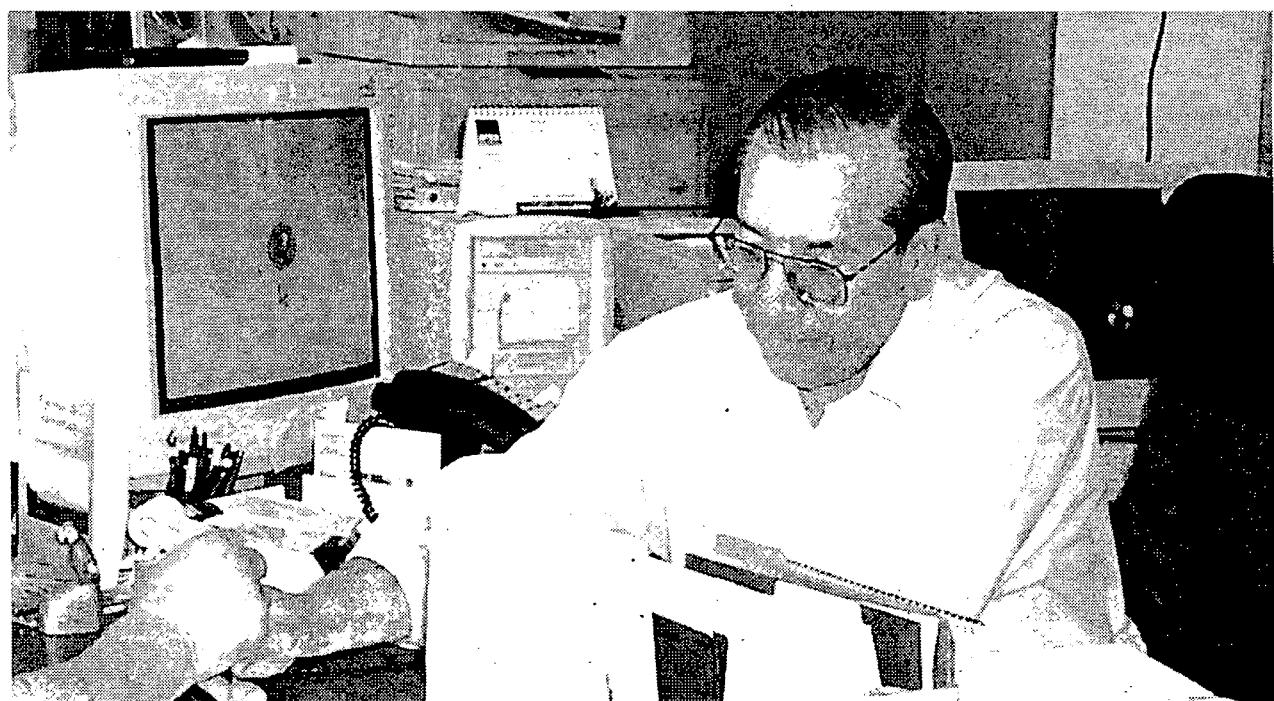
Mi nombre es Rodolfo Cortes, popularmente conocido como Rudy Cortes, nací el dia 10 de Marzo del año 1944 en la ciudad de Managua, Nicaragua, Centroamérica.

Mis padres: Rodolfo y Susana Cortes, ambos fallecidos.

Durante mi juventud estudié en diferentes centros escolares incluyendo: la primaria, Escuela Loyola, Ruben Dario y el Instituto Nacional de Leon. En secundaria estudié en el Colegio Calazan y El Bautista, en donde obtuve mi título de Bachiller en Ciencias y Letras, año 1962.

De joven me atrajo el deporte, participé en pequeñas ligas de Baseball y Basketball, mi juventud la dediqué bastante a estos deportes.

Como todo joven comencé a asistir a eventos



Rudy Cortes a la obra en su oficina.

photo: Anna Ulbrich

sociales pues me gustó el baile, lo cual aprendí muy bien. A pesar de ser buen bailarín era tipo callado y huraño. Pero mi carácter era social y amistoso y fui buen estudiante y deportista.

Al graduarme del bachiller me encontré con la indecisión de cuál carrera debería perseguir, no tenía una ambición exclusiva. Me gustaban los estudios pero no me inclinaba a nada en particular. Me registré en la facultad de Ingeniería pero mis estudios en ese ramo fueron cortos pues fue en ese tiempo cuando los estudiantes comenzaban a lanzarse en huelga para protestar en contra del gobierno del General Anastacio Somoza. Las huelgas eran constantes, casi a diario, y eso perturbaba a los estudiantes que real-

mente querían estudiar y a los que no les interesaba la política, como fue mi caso. Siento por la gente débil, oprimida y pobre de Nicaragua, pero no estaba de acuerdo con la manera en la que se estaban realizando las cosas, odio la política, la violencia y los actos bélicos, razón por la cual decidí cortar mis estudios en Ingeniería y emprender el viaje hacia San Francisco, California, donde residía mi hermano mayor, el Profesor David Cortes y mi hermana Mirian Chaname. A insistencia de mi hermano, al darse cuenta de lo que ocurría en Nicaragua, me convenció y logró que yo llegara a San Francisco.

En mi llegada, mi hermano era muy estricto conmigo, en parte estoy continuado en la página 12

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continuado desde la página 11

Rudy Cortes

agradecido, en parte resiento su comportamiento. Por él aprendí mis primeras palabras en Inglés, tenía planes de seguir mis estudios Universitario pero necesitaba pulirme en el idioma Inglés. En poco tiempo tuve un serio disgusto con mi hermano lo que causó nuestra separación, me fui a vivir a casa de mi hermana Mirian en la ciudad de Pacifica, después a la casa de un amigo Sr. Roberto Torres y Esposa Hilda Rocha, fueron muy buenas personas conmigo. Continué mis estudios del Inglés, pero al mismo tiempo necesitaba trabajar pues no era justo que unas personas no de relación familiar me estuvieran manteniendo. Logré conseguir trabajo de asistente de mesero (busboy) de limpia platos (dishwasher) de barrendero (janitor) y de ayudante de cocina (kitchen helper), trabajé de asensorista y de mesero; cuando ya dominaba un poco el idioma Inglés logré conseguir el trabajo de vendedor en una tienda que vendía artículos escolares y de oficina, como también juguetes y tarjetas para todo ocasión.

Antes de todos estos trabajos, durante mi tercer año de vivir en los EEUU conocí a la que luego fue mi primera esposa, la gran dama Cony Prado. Procreamos tres hijos, Alan, Marvin y Javier, que son mi vida y adoración. Duré 20 años casado con Cony, el destino se interpuso en nuestras vidas y nos llegó el momento de separarnos. Divorciado de Cony, permanecí un pequeño tiempo solo, para luego conocer a mi segunda esposa, Ana Pineda, con la cual tengo 9

años de casado. Tenemos un niño, Rudito, quien es mi razón por vivir, me llena de alegría y de ambición para trabajar y seguir adelante. Rudito es todo para mí, su hermanos lo adoran, se llevan bien con él, es un angel que Dios me envió como bendición. Dios es todopoderoso.

En el año de 1974 decidí, ya casado y con tres hijos, a lanzarme como empresario. Me independicé y logré montar e iniciar una pequeña tiendita llamada Partyland que vendía artículos para toda ocasión, negocio que aprendí cuando fui vendedor en la tienda Bell Bazaar de la calle 16 en San Francisco. En el año 1977 estudié y logré aprender el oficio de Preparador de Impuestos (Income Tax) carrera que hasta hoy conservo y vivo de ella. Luego estudié Contabilidad, me gradué y también trabajo como Contador. También saqué el curso de Notary Public (es prohibido escribirlo en español al menos que seas abogado). De manera que mi trabajo por los últimos 23 años consiste en ofrecer servicios de Preparación de Impuestos (Income Tax Service), Contabilidad (Accounting/Bookkeeping) y Notary Public.

En San Francisco he participado en varios programas sociales comunitarios, he sido miembro de organizaciones deportivas, activo en eventos a nivel nacional. Conozco muy bien esta bella ciudad y he visto los cambios radicales que ha sufrido. San Francisco, ciudad calma, social y de bellos paisajes se ha convertido en ciudad compleja, llena de problemas sociales y desempleo. Nuestra comunidad latina cada día más se está deteriorando.

A pesar que los hispanos/latinos somos una comunidad inmensa y que ya nos están tomando en cuenta, no poseemos la fuerza suficiente para influir en cambios sociales para nuestro propio bienestar como lo hacen otros grupos étnicos minoritarios como los Asiáticos, Arabes y Europeos. La mayor razón de ello es porque no tomamos en cuenta que para influir en este país hay que hacerse ciudadano, pero poseemos mucho orgullo, somos demasiado nacionalistas, no nos importa nada, a pesar que residimos en este país por muchos años. Sobretodo no somos unidos, siempre estamos en desacuerdo. Es nuestra idiosincrasia.

Mi sueño, mi sentir, mi deseo es ver un día que exista una gran comunidad latina muy unida, Mexicanos (que son la mayoría) Centroamericanos, Sur Americanos, todos una sola comunidad ayudándonos unos al otro sin distinción alguna. Que surjan profesionales hispanos que se preocupen, con sinceridad, por nuestros derechos, que tengamos voz y voto y sentirmos parte importante en este país grandioso. Vivir en paz, libres y sentirmos seguro de nosotros mismos.

Deseo mas participación por parte de los comerciantes hispanos en nuestro barrio de la Mission, formar una coalición hispana para ofrecer ayuda a nuestra propia comunidad. Aconsejar a las familias hispanas que convenzan a sus hijos para que estudien, que aprendan un oficio para así llegar a ser buenos ciudadanos y hacernos sentir orgullosos de ser hispanos. Estudiar sería la prioridad mas grande para los jóvenes hispanos, ofrecerles ayuda para que logren esas metas. Esos son mis deseos ■

continuado desde la página 9

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para los cuales la comunidad de Bayview estaba tratando de negociar, podrían "marcharse" si el proyecto se veía postergado de nuevo.

Es entonces que el Comisionado Kevin Hughes hizo una moción para que se aplazase hasta el 10 de julio la audiencia pública donde se oiría el Informe Sobre el Impacto Ambiental. La moción pasó con un voto de 6-1. El único voto en contra fue el del Comisionado reverendo Boyd, quien dijo: "Todavía queda mucho por hacer... [para asegurar que la construcción de un Home Depot beneficie a la comunidad]. No sé si 60 días, 90 días, 120 días más harán una gran diferencia. Puede ser que al final de todo no hayamos progresado más". El Reverendo Boyd añadió que "no sabemos realmente hasta qué nivel llega la diligencia de los patrocinadores del proyecto".

Durante el Congreso de la Comunidad en Bernal Heights se tratará el asunto de Home Depot

La Presidenta del Comité sobre Home Depot, Barbara Kyle, liderará uno de los tres grupos que se formarán durante el Congreso, para discutir el Informe Sobre el Impacto Ambiental de Home Depot. El grupo trabajará en la preparación de un testimonio que se presentará ante la Comisión de Planificación el día 10 de julio, revisará los mayores acontecimientos en el proyecto Home Depot desde su inicio hasta ahora, y escuchará una presentación sobre una propuesta por parte del Departamento de Planificación de cambiar el uso del terreno en el Boulevard Bayshore, lo cual podría convertir el área en una sucesión de locales de grandes cadenas. ■



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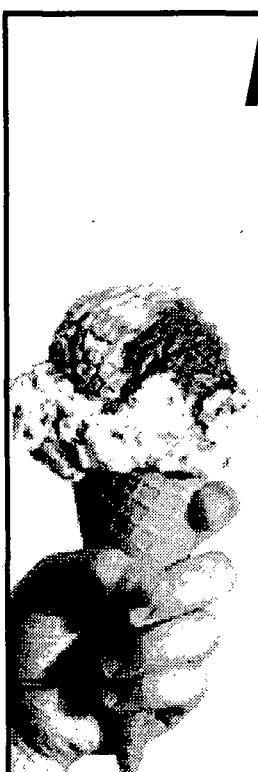
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Local Profile: Rudy Cortes

(Note: this is a translation of the article which appears on page 11)

Rudy Cortes is a well-known businessman among the Mission Street Latino community. Many of them have come to look at him as "alguién que sabe," someone who knows, and the person to see when in need of guidance. From advising people about immigration procedures to helping someone find a house, Rudy has been a true resource for his community. Having emigrated from Nicaragua during the war, he understands the tribulations of those who are forced to leave their motherland in search of a better life. He urges our neighbors on Mission Street, residents and merchants, to join forces and realize the power of a strong and organized community.

--Anna Ulbrich

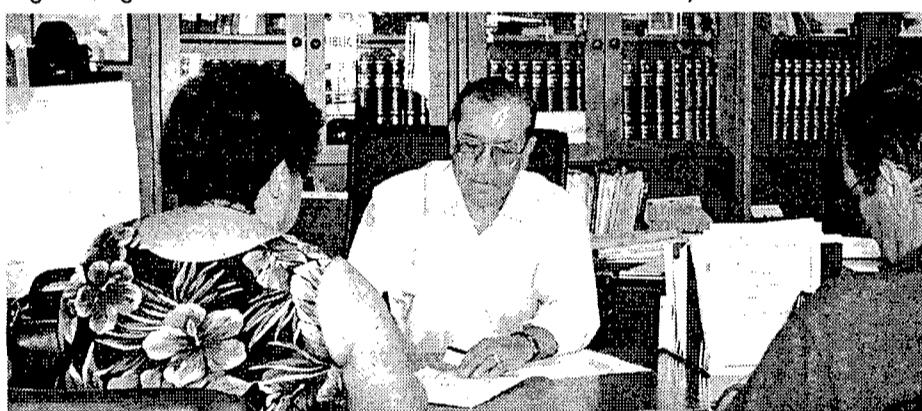
My name is Rodolfo Cortes, a.k.a. Rudy Cortes. I was born on March 10th, 1944 in Managua, Nicaragua, Central America.

My parents are Rodolfo and Susana Cortes, both of them deceased.

I studied in several different schools. I attended Loyola School, Ruben Dario and the National Institute of Leon for middle school, and Colegio Calazan and El Bautista for high school, where I obtained my high school diploma.

As a youth I enjoyed sports very much and played little league baseball and basketball. Indeed I dedicated much of my youth to playing these sports.

After graduating from high school I found myself unsure about what major to study in university. Since no course of study particularly attracted my attention, I decided to register with the College of Engineering. My studies in this branch did not last long, as this was the time when students were beginning to go on strike to protest the government of General Anastacio Somoza. There were strikes almost every day, which disturbed those of us who truly wanted to study and had no interest for politics. I empathized with the weak, the oppressed and the poor of Nicaragua, but disagreed with the way in which events were being played out due to my strong dislike for politics, violence and belligerent acts. Because of the turmoil in my homeland and upon my older brother's insistence, I decided to quit my Engineering studies and move to San Francisco where both my brother, Professor



Rudy Cortes at work in his office

photo: Anna Ulbrich

David Cortes, and my sister, Mirian Chaname, had been living for some time.

When I first arrived my brother was very strict with me, for which I am both grateful and resentful. Thanks to him I began to learn English. I had plans to continue my university studies but first I needed to brush up on my English. It did not take long for an argument to break out between my brother and me, which caused me to move out of his house and in with my sister Mirian in Pacifica. I then went to live with my friend Roberto Torres and his wife Hilda Rocha, both of whom were very kind to me. I continued studying English but at the same time felt the need to find a job, since it wasn't fair for two people who weren't related to me to have to take care of me. I did manage to find work, first as busboy, then as dishwasher, janitor, kitchen help, elevator conductor and waiter. Little by little my English began to improve and I was able to get a clerk job in a store that sold school and office supplies, toys and greeting cards of all kinds.

During my third year in the United States I met the woman who would become my first wife, the great lady Cony Prado. We had three children, Alan, Marvin and Javier, who are my pride and joy. My marriage with Cony lasted twenty years, but then destiny took us on different paths and we got divorced. I remained a bachelor for a while and then met my second wife, Ana Pineda, with whom I have been married for nine years. We have a son, Rudito, who fills me with joy and the desire to work hard and move forward. Rudito is everything to me, his brothers adore him and get along very well with him. He is an angel whom God sent me as a blessing. God is all-powerful.

In 1974, married with three children, I decided to try my luck at starting my own business. I opened a little store called Partyland, which sold objects for all types of occasions. I had learned the trade while working for a store called Bell Bazaar on 16th street in San Francisco. In 1977, I studied to become an Income Tax Preparer, which remains my profession to this day. I then studied Accounting, graduated and then also became an Accountant. Then I studied to become a Notary Public. As a result, for the past 23 years my job has included Income Tax, Accounting/Bookkeeping, and Notary Public services.

While in San Francisco I have participated in various social programs, I have been a member of sports organizations and have been active in events on a national level. I know this beautiful city very well and have seen the radical changes it has experienced. San Francisco, city of tranquility and beautiful land-

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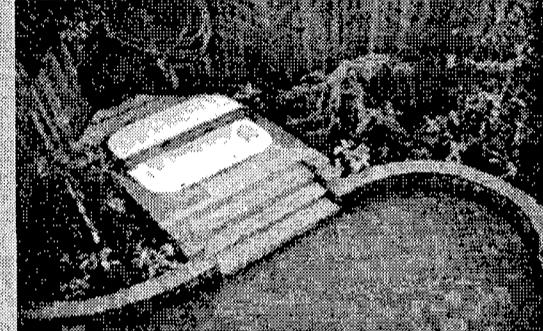
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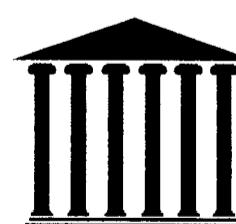
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scapes turned city of complexity, social problems and unemployment. Our Latino community is deteriorating more and more every day.

Despite the huge size of our Latino community, which has the potential to be a major player, we are not strong enough to make social changes that would improve our standard of living like other minority groups have done, including Asians, Arabs and Europeans. The main reason for this is that we ignore the fact that in order to be heard in this country, you must become a citizen. But we are too proud, too nationalistic and we don't care, despite having lived in this country for many years. But most importantly, we are not united, we are always in disagreement. That is our idiosyncrasy.

My dream is that one day the Latin community shall be united, with Mexicans (who represent the majority), Central Americans and South Americans all forming one big community, helping each other without discrimination. I wish to see Latino professionals who truly care about our rights. I wish for our community to be heard, to play an important part in the progress of this great country, to be peaceful, free and sure of itself.

I would like to see greater participation on the part of the Latino merchants in our Mission Street community, a coalition of Latinos dedicated to helping their community. I wish our families would prevail on their children to study and learn a trade in order to become good citizens and make us proud of being Hispanic. Studying should be Latino youths' greatest priority, and it is our duty to help them achieve their goals. Such are my wishes. ■



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From Rome to Bernal: A Family Tradition of Fine Italian Cuisine

By Louise Blasi

Also Blasi, owner of both Palatino here on Cortland Avenue and Ristorante Milano in Russian Hill, grew up in Rome, Italy. As a young boy he played soccer in Piazza Navona, and soaked up a love of the restaurant business from his grandfather, Nonno Ugo. His Grandfather owned a famous restaurant, Ristorante Ulpia, whose dining room actually opened out on to the ancient Roman ruins.

Ristorante Ulpia was popular from the moment it opened. Musicians would come for Ugo's food and company. Segovia, the famous Spanish guitarist, would play, and opera singers, including Enrico Caruso, came, after getting to know Aldo's grandfather when he worked on the Orient Express. The Royal Family dined there often, as did all the politicians. When the Fascists came to power, Nonno Ugo was careful not to seat those politicians close to any of the royal family.

The restaurant was looted at the end of World War II. When Aldo was growing up in the 50's and 60's, his grandfather was rebuilding the restaurant business as all of Europe was recovering. Also spent his time with his grandfather in the kitchen with the chefs or setting up the dining room, while listening to stories of Ugo's adventures. It was from his grandfather that he learned the importance of top quality, fresh ingredients, and the satisfaction of making people comfortable and satisfied.

Aldo's grandfather passed away in the early 70's while Aldo was at Berkeley. Also stayed in California and eventually bought Ristorante Milano, "the jewel of Russian Hill", fourteen years ago. Sixteen years ago he moved to Bernal Heights with his wife Louise, who also had many years' experience in the restaurant business. They loved the neighborhood and welcome the positive changes they saw happening all over Cortland, such as the improved playground and the new businesses springing up. As soon as their two daughters reached school age, they began to look for a space on Cortland Avenue for another restaurant where they could work together. They worked hard to transform the old Barking Basset café into Palatino, a Roman style trattoria with copper topped tables and wine colored walls. Paintings of Roman street scenes by local artist Paulette Long add to the colorful, upbeat, and eclectic surroundings and clientele of Bernal Heights.

Aldo created a Roman influenced menu with such dishes as "suppli", fried risotto balls, "coniglio brodetto", braised rabbit, and "pappardelle", homemade wide egg noodles. Some recipes, such as "rigatoni all coda di vaccinara", pasta with ox-tail sauce, were conveyed to Aldo over the telephone to Aldo by his mother from Rome. The chefs skillfully execute the menu, and the servers in the restaurant, either Italian or Bernal residents, are friendly and wel-

coming. The Blasi's two daughters also come by the restaurant to help set up, arrange flowers, or sample the freshly baked bread. The Blasi's are there everyday working the hill that gave Aldo a new home, where they continue the family tradition started by Nonno Ugo, of good food, community, and family. ■

Palatino is located at 803 Cortland Avenue, **641-8899**. Lunch is Monday through Friday, 11:30 to 2:30; Dinner is served 7 nights a week.



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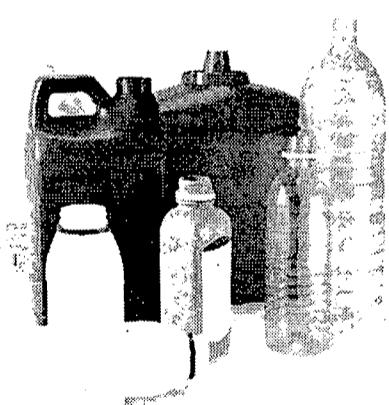
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Junipero Serra Workday

By Friends of Bernal Schools

On Saturday, May 17th, teachers, parents and community volunteers came together at Junipero Serra Elementary School for a workday. Over 20 people attended and helped build a retaining wall, index books in the library and classrooms, install shelving and whiteboards in classrooms and workrooms, and deliver books for next year to classrooms. Junipero Serra Elementary and the Friends of Bernal Schools thank everyone who came out to help the school! Your hard work has made a visible and significant difference to our school!

If you'd like to take part in another workday at the school or at another of the Bernal Elementary schools, please contact Friends of Bernal Schools at **648-4019** or by e-mail at FOBS@muleteam.com.

In this time of budget cuts in public education, Bernal neighbors have started Friends of Bernal Schools (FOBS) to provide our schools with the enrichment and resources that reflect Bernal's history of support for the community. The four elementary schools in our area, Paul Revere, Junipero Serra, Leonard Flynn and Fairmount all draw students from Bernal Heights, as well as students who come into our community from surrounding neighborhoods seeking a good education. FOBS believes that Bernal is a great place to live, and therefore should also have great schools for all who choose to be educated in our community! ■

Day Labor Move Succeeds Despite Lack of Public Funding

By Mauricio Vela

It was a welcome site to see the San Francisco Day Labor Program contingent marching in the 2003 25th Anniversary Carnaval parade. It was a parade of many faces and groups that make up San Francisco, especially the Mission District. The Day Laborers are as much of the community as are the local elementary schools that marched on Sunday. These are the same schools that my sons marched with ten years ago and the same Day Laborer's that are part of the Bernal/Mission fabric of the community.

As many Bernal neighbors may be aware, the San Francisco Day Labor Program received its approval for a Cesar Chavez Street location back in January 2003. The approval came with certain conditions, conditions that Program Director Renee Saucedo says the program can live with. As someone who testified at the permit hearing and a long time supporter of the program, I was disappointed with the condition that the program makes a good faith effort to find another location. This condition reflects an attitude of an expectation that the current site will not succeed. There were a total of 14 conditions of approval including Day Labor staff person stands outside during program peak hours, Chavez Street traffic analysis, appointment of a community liaison, and host an open house community meeting twice a year. According to the project architect, the move in date has been scheduled for August of this year with an inaugural bash to follow.

Public Funds awarded to Volunteers of America

Public funding has continued to be an obstacle. Previously Centro Legal had received \$100,000 from the Mayor's Office of Community Development, and \$100,000 from the Board of Supervisors. This year, July 2002 - June 2003, Centro Legal has not received any public support. The program continues to run on private support and the work of dedicated staff and volunteers. Centro Legal appealed the results of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services day labor program selection committee which awarded the contract to Volunteers of America in March 2003. The Mayor's Office later rescinded the contract offer to Volunteers of America. Some would credit the rescinding to Supervisor Ammiano, who had called a hearing to investigate the selection process with the assistance of the City Purchaser, combined with the fact that Centro Legal had filed a discrimination law suit.

The City is issuing a third request for proposals to run the city funded day labor program. Centro Legal feels it has a strong proposal based on the experience running the current program and the strong support from the day laborers and neighbors. There does exist a contingent of neighbors who believe the program belongs east of the 101 freeway or on Bayshore.

Critical Support still offered to Day Laborers

Despite the lack of public dollars for the San Francisco Day Labor Program, which also has a women's cooperative component, still sends hundreds of day laborers out to work each month and provides them with access to medical, housing, mental health, other job referral opportunities and other essential services.

Support the Day Labor Program

You can still support the San Francisco Day Labor Program. You can hire the workers to assist you in home project such as gardening, painting, and minor construction for a minimum of \$12.00 per hour and three hour shifts. You can donate men's clothing, coffee, non-dairy creamer, sugar, and cups. You can bring your contributions for the San Francisco Day Labor Program to Franklin Square Park at 17th and Hampshire or call (415) 252-5375. Please support this program. ■

Photo: Anne Risch



Volunteers pitched in to help Junipero Serra Elementary get in shape for next year.

What's New at the Library?

By Lisa Dunseth, Branch Manager
Bernal Heights Branch Library



TEAM UP WITH BOOKS...

AT THE LIBRARY!

Children through age 13 can win prizes for reading beginning June 7th if they join the Team Up With Books Summer Reading Club. Check in at Skye's Surf Shop for lots of fun and more information about the dancers, jugglers and magicians who will be performing at the library this summer. Teens ages 13-18 can join Teen Summer Read. Teens will earn books and gift certificates for reading three books and completing book review forms. Adults won't be left out. The Bernal Book Club will be reading *MISS LONELYHEARTS* by Nathanael West (Thursday, June 26th) and *REMEMBERING BABYLON* by David Malouf (Thursday, July 24th). A series of Poetry Writing Workshops (for ages 13 and up) will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. and led by Tina Cervin and Grace Marie Grafton. They will host an Open Mike Poetry Reading on Tuesday, July 15th at 7 p.m. There will also be an improv workshop (for ages 13 and up) led by Blue Blanket Improv on Saturday, June 28th followed by a performance at 3 p.m.

All programs at the library are free and sponsored by the Friends and Foundation.

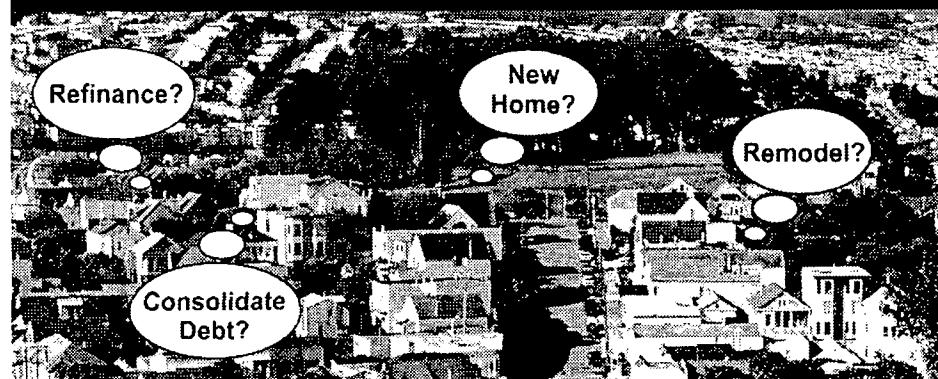
The library is located at 500 Cortland Avenue. Call **355-2810** for more information or to register for workshops.

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Waterfront Teens Sail the Irving Johnson

By Jandro Alcàntar

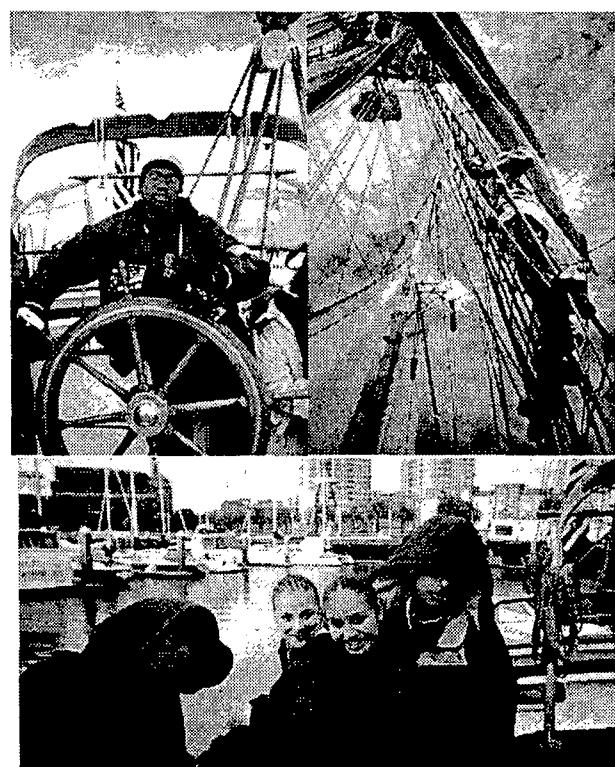
At 6:45 am, on any given Saturday, most teens are sound asleep dreaming of something to get into, to kick off their weekend. May 3rd found teens from Bayview - Hunter's Point, Lakeview and the Excelsior waiting for the BHNC Van to swoop them up for a day on the SF Bay, with the crew of the Irving Johnson. When we arrived at Pier 40 it was raining heavily. Many youth could have refused to go aboard, but these brave teens sought adventure. They sat patiently in the rainfall and listened to the crewmembers as they went over group expectations while aboard the ship. When we left the Pier, we were rewarded for our perseverance, the sun had arrived and we were on our way to quite a journey.

The Irving Johnson is ran by a crew that provides safe sailing adventures for youth while at the same time develops their teamwork and leadership skills. The Waterfront Teens were broken-up and given a "hands-on-training" of how to run a ship. They

learned boating terms like where the "stern side" and "bow" are located. Lillian, one of our original Waterfront Teens, overcame her fear of the water and took the voyage on the Bay and helped run the ship. She worked the throat halyard with her crew and raised the main mast. Not too bad for someone whose first response to going on a boat replied, "I can't do it! I'm scared to death of the water!" Another teen, Christopher, climbed a ratline with a crewmember and looked down on us from 15 feet above the deck; while secured to the ratline by a harness. The teens used teamwork to sail the ship and individually challenged themselves to step outside their comfort zones.

We returned to Pier 40 by noon and the youth had done more in conquering fears and gaining teamwork in the 5 hours together than if they had hit their snooze buttons. This trip was just another reminder for those of us working with youth that they possess so many untapped powers.

For more information on the Waterfront Teen Program please call (415) 334-9919 ext. 102 ■



Local teens got their sea legs in the Waterfront Teen Program
Photos: Jandro Alcàntar

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Development at the Former Taco Bell

By Joseph Smooke

On May 5, the developer, John Sullivan, and architect, Drake Gardner, of the site of the former Taco Bell at Mission and Valencia made a presentation to the BHNC Housing Committee about their development plans for the former Taco Bell site. The proposal is for 4,800 square feet of commercial space and 21 parking spaces on the ground floor and 20 condos above. Their proposal is to include a child care space and some small scale retail in the ground level commercial space.

The BHNC Housing Committee's greatest concern is always to ensure a developer's commitment to provide affordable housing. Per the current City Planning code, developments like this one are required to provide 12% of the units at rates affordable to people earning 100% of the median income. Mr. Sullivan said that they had proposed to the Planning Department to build 21 units with 3 affordable units to meet the 12% requirement. Since the zoning for the site only allows 20 units, the Planning Department required the developer to provide only 20 units, or apply for a variance to gain approval to add the 21st unit. The developers have opted not to apply for the variance, so have reduced the amount of units to 20. They have also reduced the number of affordable units from 3 to 2 making only 10% of the units affordable rather than the required 12%. To comply with the intent of the ordinance, and to meet the needs of the community, the developer should offer 3 units to homeowners at 100% of the median income.

Per the new figures from HUD, the median income in San Francisco has increased dramatically. Median income for a single person is now \$79,200 and for a family of 4 it is \$113,100. So, the discount on these units will not be so extreme as to create a hardship for the developer, but the discounted sales price for these units will help those of us who are priced out of today's housing market.

This is the same developer/ architect team for the new building at Mission and 29th. Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Gardner commented to the BHNC Housing Committee that all the retail spaces at Mission and 29th would be occupied by small businesses. They explicitly stated that there would be no Starbucks, and no big chain businesses like Starbucks moving in to this development. For those who are curious, according to Mr. Sullivan, the Post Office will be moving back across 29th St out of their temporary space and into the new building. ■

Carol Bee. Local Girl.



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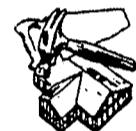
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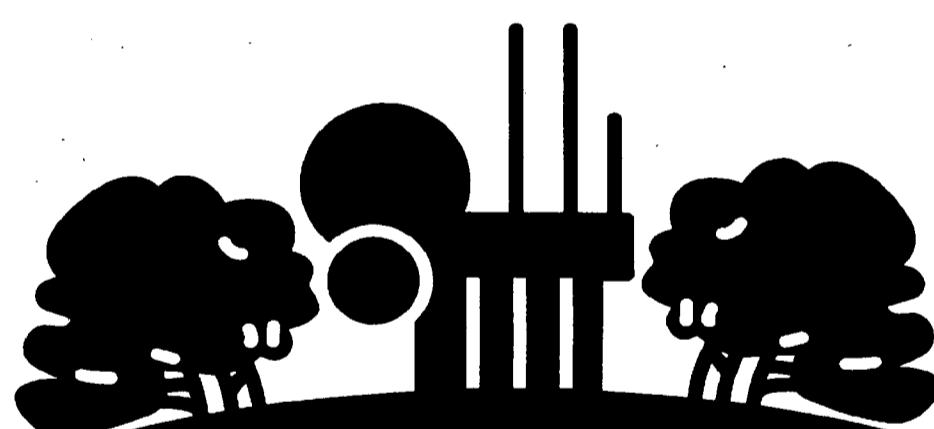
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